

## Message Text

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61

ACTION NEA-12

INFO OCT-01 AF-10 EUR-25 ADP-00 CIAE-00 PM-07 H-03 INR-10

L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-03 RSC-01 PRS-01 SS-15 USIA-15

RSR-01 /117 W

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R 021442Z AUG 73

FM AMEMBASSY BEIRUT

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 0000

DIA

INFO AMEMBASSY AMMAN

AMCONSUL JERUSALEM

AMEMBASSY JIDDA

AMEMBASSY KUWAIT

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV

AMEMBASSY TRIPOLI

USINT CAIRO

CINCEUR

S E C R E T BEIRUT 9143

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINS XF UR

SUBJECT: FEDAYEEN DEVELOPMENTS

1. LEBANESE ARMY HAS WHAT IT CONSIDERS TO BE VERY RELIABLE REPORTS THAT SARG MOST UNHAPPY WITH BOTH SAIQA LEADER ZOHEIR MOHSEIN AND COMMANDER OF PLA MUSBAH BUDEIRY AND IS TAKING STEPS TO REPLACE BOTH MEN. REASON GIVEN FOR SYRIAN DISSATISFACTION IS INADEQUATE PERFORMANCE BY TWO MEN IN RESPONDING TO ORDERS AND DESIRES OF SARG DURING MAY EVENTS HERE, LINKED WITH CONTINUING SARG ATTEMPT TRY IMPOSE ITS DOMINATION ON PLO AND FATAH BY WORKING THROUGH SAIQA AND PLA AND OTHER LESSER ORGANIZATIONS.

2. ARMY SOURCES ALSO REPORT THEY HAVE EVIDENCE CONFIRM-  
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ING NEWSPAPER SPECULATION THAT PFLP LEADER GEORGE HABBASH

HAS BEEN INVITED VISIT USSR AND WILL SOON DO SO. HABBASH THERE LAST YEAR FOR TREATMENT OF HEART AILMENT AND RETURN TRIP COULD ALSO BE FOR MEDICAL PURPOSES BUT IS ADVERTISED AS SOMETHING MORE SUBSTANTIVE WITH A PFLP DELEGATION ACCOMPANYING HIM THIS TIME.

3. ON OTHER HAND, SOV AMBASSADOR AZIMOV TEN DAYS AGO SOUGHT OUT SENIOR LEBANESE ARMY OFFICER AT IRAQI RECEPTION TO URGE THAT GOL AND ARMY DO EVERYTHING THEY COULD TO ASSIST ARAFAT IN HIS EFFORTS UNIFY FEDAYEEN AND FEND OFF CHALLENGE FROM RIVAL LEADERS AND ORGANIZATIONS. AZIMOV SAID, IN COURSE OF CONVERSATION THAT SOVS MAKING EFFORTS RESTRAIN EXTREMIST ELEMENTS AMONG FEDAYEEN IN LEBANON AS WELL AS SYRIANS.

4. LEBANESE ARMY AND OTHER GOL SOURCES CONTINUE BELIEVE PFLP, ESPECIALLY WADDI HADDAD, BEHIND JAL HIJACKING. HOWEVER, THEY SAY THEY OBTAINED ADDITIONAL INFO WHICH INDICATES BSO (AND FATAH) KNEW IN ADVANCE OF OPERATION BUT TURNED AGAINST IT SHORTLY AFTER IT ACTUALLY BEGAN. LEBANESE UNCERTAIN WHY THIS OCCURRED BUT SPECULATE IT COULD HAVE BEEN DUE TO FATAH DESIRE BUILD ITSELF UP BY WEAKENING PFLP OR AT LEAST TO DISCREDIT HADDAD'S EXTREMIST WING SO AS TO INDUCE GREATER COOPERATION FROM HABBASH AND REST OF PFLP.

5. COMMENT: IT MAY BE THAT SOV INVITATION TO HABBASH IS EFFORT PERSUADE HIM TO ADOPT MORE MODERATE POLICIES SUCH AS COOPERATING MORE CLOSELY WITH 'ARAFAT AND TRYING STOP HIJACKING.  
BUFFUM

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## Message Attributes

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